

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 14, 1942.

The tenth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1942 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Saturday, March 14, 1942. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Bruce,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
Mr. Stackpole,

also H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary and Administrative Officer.

Due to the fact that Chairman Clarke was unavoidably delayed by bad weather conditions, which interfered with air plane service, Vice Chairman Lamb presided until eleven o'clock.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held February 7, 1942, were approved.

2. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSION; Design for alteration of 1109 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest: The secretary presented a design received from the Inspector of Buildings (Application No. 982, dated March 6, 1942) for alteration of this building. A photograph of the building was shown as also one of an establishment owned by the applicant, The Thompson's Restaurant Company, near 14th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., which was remodeled with the advice of this Commission a few years ago; the premises at 1109 Pennsylvania Avenue is to resemble it.

After inspection of the design by the architect members of the Commission, the design was approved, as also the samples of structural glass proposed for the building.

3. DESIGNS FROM THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION: Under date of February 27, 1942, the following letter was received from the Office of the Supervising Architect, Public Buildings Administration:

February 27, 1942.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Attached you will find prints, together with photographs of the preliminary sketches for the proposed Federal Office Building (Revised Design) to be erected at the Washington National Airport Site for the Civil Aeronautics Administration; also for the proposed Hydrographic Office for the Navy Department at Suitland, Maryland.

The following prints are included:

Federal Office Building, CAA

Photograph rendering of revised exterior design,
Site plan,
First floor plan

Hydrographic Building, Navy Department.

Photograph rendering of front elevation,
Site plan,
First floor plan.

We appreciate your kind cooperation in expediting the review of these projects by the Commission of Fine Arts.

Very truly yours,
A. S. Thorn,
Acting Supervising Architect.

(a) Revised design for the Airport Building: A set of plans was sent to the architect members of the Commission. They considered the design an improvement over the one submitted in February, and upon their recommendation the Commission approved it (Exhibit A).

(b) Hydrographic Office: A set of plans was sent to the architect members of the Commission, who considered the design to be satisfactory, and upon their recommendation the Commission approved it (Exhibit B)

4. WOMEN'S DORMITORY: Under date of February 26, 1942, the following letter was received from Mr. Louis Justement, architect, submitting a set of

plans for a Women's Dormitory:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I am submitting for the consideration of the Fine Arts Commission the following information concerning the colored women's hotel to be erected by the Defense Homes Corporation on 3d Street, between T and Elm Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

1. Map showing the general vicinity of the site. The proposed building is, as you will note, in a very mediocre section of the city, and there are no parks or public buildings in the neighborhood which would in any way affect the design of this building.

2. Photographs of existing buildings on both sides of 3d Street.

3. Floor plan at the scale of 1/16" to the foot indicating the general arrangement of the guest rooms and public spaces.

4. Photostat of a perspective showing the building as seen from 3d Street, the only view which will be obtained from any street.

The central portion of the first floor will be executed either in limestone or in reinforced concrete. For the balance of the building we had intended to use a light colored red brick, although the building department may require the use of a light buff or light grey brick because of a new requirement in the building code requiring the use of light colored brick in all courts. The code apparently contains no provision for an exception even when the courts are as generous as the ones we propose.

As you know this building is part of the program for alleviating the acute housing shortage in Washington and early action by the Commission would be greatly appreciated. Since the building is not in an important location, I hope that you will be able to secure an approval by the Commission without waiting for the next regular meeting.

Very respectfully,

LOUIS JUSTEMENT.

The set of plans was sent to the architect members of the Commission, who considered the design to be satisfactory. The design was approved with red the recommendation that a light/colored brick be used in the construction of the building. (EXHIBIT C)

5. DESIGN FOR MEN'S DORMITORY: Mr. Hilyard R. Robinson, architect, accompanied by Mr. Louis Justement, consulting architect for this project, submitted a set of plans for a Men's Dormitory to be built at Second and Elm Streets, Northwest, near the Women's Dormitory.

Mr. Robinson explained the design and stated that it is to provide accommodations for about 200 persons in 177 rooms. The facade showed a sculptural ornament, and Mr. Stackpole recommended Sargeant Johnson, sculptor,

in California, for the work.

The architect members of the Commission inspected the design. The first floor seemed complicated in its arrangement of rooms, and Mr. Robinson said he would give the matter attention. Also it was felt that the corridor windows facing the street should be restudied, and that a light red or buff colored brick should be used. Subject to these criticisms, the design was approved (Exhibit D).

6. CHINA SERVICE MEDAL: Under date of March 10, 1942, the following letter was received from the Secretary of the Navy, with new designs for the obverse of the China Service Medal:

Dear Sir:

The Board of Awards has considered all of the new exhibits presented to it for the design of the obverse of the new China Service Medal and has selected as the most appropriate:

- (a) first choice - design No.2;
- (b) second choice - design No.49;
- (c) third choice - design No.24 - modified in that
 - (1) the taffrail and ensign be removed,
 - (2) the junk be moved to a central position,
 - (3) the great wall be redrawn to furnish correct perspective,
 - (4) the word "CHINA" be placed across the top center of the medal,
 - (5) the word "SERVICE" be placed across the bottom center of the medal.

All of the exhibits received for the design of the China Service Medal, including those mentioned above, are being forwarded under separate cover.

The Navy Department will appreciate the assistance of the Commission of Fine Arts in the selection of the most appropriate design for this medal.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D.C.

FRANK KNOX

The designs were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Stackpole, namely, the three selected by the Board of Awards, and about 50 others.

Mr. Stackpole inspected all of the designs and thereupon stated that

he felt the three selected by the Board of Awards were the only ones that need be considered by the Commission.

As to the first choice of the Board of Awards, showing the entrance gateway to Peking and the Great Wall of China in the background, there was a difference of opinion as to its suitability for a medal. The secretary stated that he was authorized to say the the design was made by Mr. Simmock, Engraver of the Philadelphia Mint. Mr. Stackpole felt that the design reduced to the size of a half-dollar would be rather meaningless. An attempt to show the Chinese Wall (which is a thousand miles long) caused the design to extend over the rim.

Dr. Cret rather favored the design, but stated that the elements of it should be restudied to give assurance of a good medal. Mr. Bruce favored using simply the Gateway with an inscription in Chinese (Mei Quo), which, referring to the United States, means beautiful country. Mr. Bruce presented a photostat print of these words done by the Chinese Ambassador, the Hon. Hu Shih.

Mr. Stackpole preferred design No. 49, the second choice of the Board of Awards, also Mr. Clarke, Mr. Lamb and Mr. Holabird. The drawing of the Chinese Junk for the central motive, with a well designed legend over it, indicated that it was the work of an artist. After discussion, the Commission decided to recommend the acceptance of this design, and approved it, subject to the submission of a model by the artist. (EXHIBIT E)

7. ADDITIONAL BUILDING FOR THE HOME OWNERS LOAN CORPORATION: The secretary presented a set of drawings, also perspective, received from the firm of Holabird and Root, architects, of Chicago, for an additional building for the Home Owners Loan Corporation, to be built alongside the existing building of that organization, on Indiana Avenue, between First and Second Streets, N. W.

Mr. Holabird explained the design, starting that the building will

provide 300,000 square feet of office space. He said it was first thought to build a structure like the old building, with capitals and pilasters, but that by erecting a building similar to the Lafayette Building it has been found possible to provide an additional story for the building, which will have a height of 110 feet on Indiana Avenue with 20 foot set-back, or a total of 130 feet. Mr. Holabird said further the plans conform to the new law enacted a few days ago pertaining to Zoning that a private builder must provide garage space or for the parking of automobiles on the same lot with any such building or elsewhere; also the use of concrete has been considered, but limestone may be used to conform to the old building. Mr. Holabird then withdrew.

Mr. Lamb and Dr. Cret thereupon gave the design consideration, and upon their recommendation the Commission approved it, with the recommendation that limestone be used for the exterior of the building. Exhibit F)

8. BRIDGE NO.16 FOR WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of February 27th the following letter was received from the Public Roads Administration:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Transmitted herewith is a print of the architectural elevation of Bridge No.16, to carry an access road over the D road. This bridge is outside the limits of the War Department Building Road Network and stone facing did not appear to be justified, but we felt that the collaboration of Mr. Cret in the design of a utilitarian and inexpensive structure would result in a bridge of reasonably good appearance. We feel that this collaboration has shown results in the design of this structure, and are submitting the print for your information.

Yours very truly,

Joseph Barnett,
Principal Highway Design Engineer.

The secretary stated that to expedite matters he had submitted the design to Chairman Clarke, who had approved it. The Commission concurred in this. (Exhibit G)

9. BRIDGES NO.14 and NO.17, WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of March 14th the following letter was received from the Public Roads Administration:

The designs were inspected, also with reference to their location near the War Department Building, in Arlington County, Virginia. The Commission approved the designs (Exhibit H).

10. REPORT ON PAINTING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING. The secretary presented a letter received from Mr. Rowan, Assistant Chief of the Section of Fine Arts, together with a copy of a report by Mr. Poor, concerning the painting by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Farr for the Social Security Building. The Commission approved the report (Exhibit I)

11. MARIAN ANDERSON PAINTING: Under date of March 12, 1942, Mr. Bruce submitted the following letter with a photograph of the painting:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Submitted herewith for the further comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts is a photograph of the completed mural painting by Mr. Mitchell Jamieson commemorating the concert by Marian Anderson at the Lincoln Memorial. Photographs of the mural painting were forwarded to Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, who replied according to the attached statement.

A revocable license has been issued by the Federal Works Agency to the Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee to install the mural painting in the basement of the new Interior Building at the foot of the stairway to the right of the entrance to the cafeteria in the space approved for this purpose by the Secretary of the Interior.

Upon the approval of the painting by the Commission of Fine Arts and the Commissioner of Public Buildings, steps will be taken to install the mural painting.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD BRUCE, Chairman,
The Marian Anderson Mural Fund Committee.

Mr. Poor's comments were as follows:

I think Mr. Jamieson's "Marian Anderson Mural" is a very honest, capable and thorough going job and should be accepted by the Commission, subject to suggestions and criticisms made by the Section of Fine Arts, upon their close study of the work.

It has a fine and appealing seriousness and honesty which I think amply compensates for any lack of fine and subtle painting quality. This is, I think, its greatest weakness - that it is inclined to be rather hard and thin and toneless, but its merits far outweigh its defects.

(Signed) Henry Varnum Poor.

Mr. Bruce said that Mitchell Jamieson Jamieson is a good painter, but

the painting has been revised somewhat to meet some objections by colored people; now they have approved it, as well as the Secretary of the Interior, and it is proposed to place the painting in the basement of the new Interior Department Building, adjacent to the entrance of the cafeteria. Mr. Bruce said the mural is on canvas and could be installed immediately.

After further brief discussion, the Commission approved the painting (Exhibit J).

12. SCULPTURE FOR WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of March 12th the following letter was received from Mr. Bruce, with x photographs of the model:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Submitted herewith for the further comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts is a photograph in two sections of the three inch scale plaster model by Mr. Jean de Marco for the sculpture for the facade of the new War Department building.

Enclosed also a photograph of the one inch scale model previously approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, which indicates the revisions suggested by the Commission of Fine Arts which have been incorporated in the three inch scale model.

It would be appreciated if these photographs can be returned to the Section of Fine Arts. Additional prints will be secured by the Commission of Fine Arts for their file.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD BRUCE,
Chief of the Section of Fine Arts.

The Commission inspected the photographs and felt Mr. Marco had made a good model for this sculptural relief. Mr. Bruce said the next will be a one-half sized model, and then the sculptor proposes to carve the relief in stone at the building. The model was approved (Exhibit K).

13. REPORT ON RECENT LEGISLATION: The secretary presented the following:

- (a) Copy of Public Law No.468, approved March 4, 1942, requiring private builders to provide space for parking automobiles "on the same lot with any such building or elsewhere." (Exhibit L)
- (b) Copy of Public Law No.491, approved March 7, 1942, requiring the District Commissioners to report to Congress on the feasibility of constructing subways in the District of Columbia. (Exhibit L-1)
- (c) Copy of Public Law No.471, approved March 4, 1942, renaming Conduit Road, to be known as MacArthur Boulevard. (Exhibit L-2)

14. PONTOON BRIDGES for the District of Columbia: Under date of March 12, 1942, the following letter was received from Colonel W. J. Barden, District Engineer, submitting designs for proposed pontoon bridges for the District of Columbia:

Commission of Fine Arts,
New Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Agreeable to the request of Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary of the Commission, there are herewith plans covering the four emergency highway crossings of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

These crossings are strictly emergency war-time safety measures, are of decidedly temporary construction utilizing untreated material, and are only expected to be maintained for the duration of the war. Normally, the pontoon sections located between the two trestle approaches on either shore will not be in place. The pontoon sections will be stored at a convenient location ready for immediate installation in the event existing highway facilities are damaged.

While this office is extremely busy and all employees are actively engaged on national defense projects, an endeavor will be made to have a representative present at 2:00 p. m. on Saturday, March 14, to explain any details of the project, should this be necessary.

Very truly yours,
W. J. Barden,
Colonel, Corps Engineers,
District Engineer.

The Commission inspected the designs. Mr. Clarke was particularly interested in the designs and said that when he mentioned such a project as this at a joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission a few months ago, as a desirable means for improving traffic conditions in the District of Columbia in the absence of additional permanent bridges, the idea was ridiculed. He called attention to a Pontoon Bridge at Coblenz, which has been in continual use since before the World War of 1917-18.

The Commission noted that the War Department proposes to use these bridges as emergency structures, but the Commission felt that Pontoon Bridges at Virginia Avenue, Constitution Avenue, and Fourteenth Street could well be

put in place for use at all times, to relieve very bad traffic congestion, which is there now. A report was sent to Col. Barden accordingly (Exhibit M)

15. INSPECTION OF NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: The Commission made a trip of inspection to the new War Department Building in Arlington County, Virginia, and noted the construction work under way. The south side is about complete and the walls of the west and north sides are nearing completion.

The Commission felt the design of the building is being well worked out; they were impressed with the great mass of the building. The secretary stated that the south wing is to be occupied by the month of May of this year.

16. REHABILITATION OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON: The Commission gave consideration to a letter received from Mr. Arthur Goodwillie, Director of the Neighborhood Conservation Service, dated January 22, 1942 (Exhibit N) and to the copy of the report submitted by him to the Home Owners' Loan Corporation on the subject of the Rehabilitation of Southwest Washington.

The secretary reported that the United States Senate has made \$5,000,000 available in a pending Housing Bill towards the project and that the matter is now being considered by the House of Representatives. It is proposed to begin with 9 out of a total of 85 city blocks in S.W. Washington.

The Commission considered the report of interest and felt it would no doubt be a good thing if living conditions in Southwest Washington could be improved, that section of the city having long been neglected.

After discussion, the Commission concurred in the views expressed by Mr. Lamb, who stated that, in view of the fact that the principal problems to be solved first have to do with economic and social factors with respect to housing, the Commission prefer to have them settled first before problems that affect questions of design, in which this Commission would be particularly

concerned, are taken up. A letter was sent to Mr. Goodwillie accordingly (Exhibit N-1).

17. BUST OF SPEAKER THOMAS B. REED: Honorable David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, requested recently that the Commission of Fine Arts inspect a bust of the distinguished Thomas B. Reed, Speaker of the House of Representatives about 1890, that had been executed by Lincoln Borglum, son of Gutzon Borglum, who died before completing the bust.

The Commission accordingly inspected the bust in Mr. Lynn's office. Mr. Lynn stated that Members of Congress had called on him to say that they were dissatisfied with the bust as not being a good likeness of the distinguished former Speaker, and that the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives was in doubt in the matter of accepting it.

The Chairman stated that this was a matter in which the advice of the sculptor member, Mr. Stackpole, would be particularly needed, and Mr. Stackpole was therefore asked to give his views concerning the bust.

After inspection, Mr. Stackpole stated that the bust is extremely amateurish and entirely lacking in sculptural expression, and that he could not recommend its acceptance by the Government. The other members of the Commission agreed with Mr. Stackpole, who then in behalf of the Commission submitted the following report:

"We found the bust of Thomas B. Reed extremely amateurish and entirely lacking in sculptural expression, and therefore cannot recommend its acceptance by the Federal Government."
The report was sent to Mr. Lynn (Exhibit O).

The Commission adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

March 14, 1942.

Dear Mr. Howe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the revised design submitted by your office on February 27th, for a Federal Office Building, Civil Aeronautics Authority, to be built at the Washington National Airport.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. George Howe,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

March 14, 1942.

Dear Mr. Howe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the design submitted by your office on February 27th for the proposed Hydrographic Building, Navy Department at Suitland, Maryland.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. George Howe,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

March 14, 1942.

Dear Mr. Justement:

The Commission of Fine Arts have considered the design which you submitted with your letter of February 26th for the women's hotel to be built on Third Street, between T and Elm Streets, Northwest, and at a meeting held today approved the design, subject to the use of brick that is of a light red color rather than buff.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Louis Justement, Architect,
1223 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

March 16, 1942.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 14, 1942, considered the design which you submitted for a Men's Dormitory at Second and Elm Streets, Northwest.

The Commission approved the design, with the recommendations that the corridor windows facing the street be restudied, and that a light red or buff colored brick be used for the building.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Hilyard R. Robinson, Architect,
1927 Eleventh Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

March 16, 1942.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 14, 1942, considered the designs which you submitted with your letter of March 10th, that were received in response to a competition conducted by the Navy Department for a suitable design for the obverse of the new China Service Medal. The designs were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Ralph Stackpole, sculptor, member of the Commission.

The Commission believe that design No. 2, the first choice of the Board of Awards, would require restudy to give assurance of a good medal.

The Commission strongly recommend the acceptance of design (b), being the second choice of the Board of Awards, No. 49, and approve the design subject to the submission of a model by the artist. The design has elements of a work of art.

All the designs are herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Frank Knox,
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT E

March 16, 1942.

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 14, 1942, approved a design submitted by the firm of Helabird and Root, Architects, of Chicago, Illinois, for a building to be built for the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, on Indiana Avenue, between First and Second Streets, Northwest.

The Commission express the hope that the building will be faced with limestone, similar to that of the adjacent existing building, of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. George B. Williams, President,
The Reconstruction Finance Corporation,
Mortgage Company,
Federal Loan Agency Building,
811 Vermont Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

March 6, 1942.

Dear Mr. Barnett:

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the design, which you submitted with your letter of February 27th, for Bridge No. 16, to carry an access road over D road, as part of the War Department Building Road Network.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Joseph Barnett,
Principal Highway Design Engineer,
Public Roads Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

March 16, 1942.

Dear Mr. Barnett:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 14, 1942, approved the designs, which you submitted with your letter of March 13th, by Paul P. Cret, Architect, for Bridges Nos. 14 and 17, as part of the War Department Building Road Network.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Joseph Barnett,
Principal Highway Design Engineer,
Public Roads Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit H

RECREATION ROOM, SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON

IN REPLYING, QUOTE THE ABOVE
SUBJECT, BUILDING, AND THESE
LETTERS FA

February 11, 1942

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary
The Commission of Fine Arts
Department of the Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

For the completion of your records I am pleased to enclose herewith a copy of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor's report on the mural designs, for the Recreation Room, Social Security Building Washington, D. C. by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Farr.

A similar copy of the report is being furnished to the artists for their consideration with the authorization for them to proceed with the full size cartoons.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for your very helpful service in expediting the review of the designs. It means a great deal not only to this office but to the artists themselves. The procedure which you outlined worked excellently for all parties concerned and we are very grateful.

Cordially yours,

Edward B. Rowan
Assistant Chief
Section of Fine Arts

EXHIBIT I

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Feb. 2, 1942

Dear Ed Rowan:

I have studied the designs by Mr. and Mrs. Farr for the Cafeteria of the Social Security Bldg. and think they are skillful and competent, and any suggestions I make are not intended to withhold approval - which is herewith given. The suggestions are given and the carrying out left entirely to the artists. That is, I do not feel they need again be submitted for approval.

I feel that the North wall is much less satisfactorily solved than the others. The many window openings of course make it much harder. I feel that the figures themselves, between the windows, are not as alive and interesting and are not as interestingly placed in their spaces, as they should be.

I suggest that the center red might be repeated in larger and more formal shapes, to do away with the too broken, weak, and spotty effect of the wall spaces between the windows - as for instance the "beemen" group of the South Wall with its solid red base. This I think too would help unify the center and side sections of the wall, which now I do not think are enough related.

I would like to make a general suggestion. It is that the artists, while keeping the simple decorative effect they have tried for, avoid too much flat painting and easy pattern - try also to keep humor without the need of somewhat meaningless caricature.

That is, in general, get as much real character and fine painting into all your shapes and personages as possible. And avoid the "Vanity Fair" - "New Yorker" character. The instinct for decoration which the designs show is I think very fine.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Henry V. Poor

March 16, 1942.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 14, 1942, considered the photograph, which you submitted with your letter of March 12th, of the completed mural painting by Mr. Mitchell Jamieson commemorating the concert by Marian Anderson at the Lincoln Memorial.

The Commission approved the painting, subject to the report made by Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission of Fine Arts, concerning it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

March 16, 1942.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 14, 1942, inspected the photographs submitted with your letter of March 12th, of the three inch scale plaster model by Mr. Jean de Marco for the sculpture for the facade of the new War Department Building at Twenty-first Street and Virginia Avenue, Northwest. The Commission approve the model.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K

[PUBLIC LAW 468—77TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 126—2D SESSION]

[H. R. 6003]

AN ACT

To amend an Act entitled "An Act providing for the zoning of the District of Columbia and the regulation of the location, height, bulk, and uses of buildings and other structures and of the uses of land in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes", approved June 20, 1938.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act providing for the zoning of the District of Columbia and the regulation of the location, height, bulk, and uses of buildings and other structures and of the uses of land in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes", approved June 20, 1938, be amended by inserting between the first and second sentences the following: "The said Zoning Commission shall also have power to promulgate regulations to require, with respect to buildings erected subsequent to the promulgation of such regulations, that facilities be provided and maintained either on the same lot with any such building, or on the same lot with any such building or elsewhere, for the parking of automobiles and motor vehicles of the owners, occupants, tenants, patrons, and customers of such building, and of the business, trades, and professions conducted therein."

Approved, March 4, 1942.

EXHIBIT L

[PUBLIC LAW 491—77TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 167—2D SESSION]

[H. J. Res. 248]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To direct the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to make an investigation and survey to determine the feasibility of the construction of subways in the District of Columbia for both streetcars and vehicular traffic.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized and directed to make a preliminary survey to determine the feasibility of the construction of subways in the District of Columbia for both streetcars and vehicular traffic.

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby empowered to call upon any agencies of the United States Government for assistance in making this survey.

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall make a report to Congress on the result of the survey not later than one hundred and twenty days after the enactment of this Act.

Approved, March 7, 1942.

EXHIBIT L-1

[PUBLIC LAW 471—77TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 129—2D SESSION]

[H. R. 6536]

AN ACT

To change the name of Conduit Road in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the highway lying within the District of Columbia and extending therein from Foxhall Road to the Maryland-District of Columbia line, now known as Conduit Road, shall hereafter be designated by the name MacArthur Boulevard, in honor of the gallant defense of the Philippines by General Douglas MacArthur.

Approved, March 4, 1942.

EXHIBIT L-2

COPY

The Commission of Fine Arts

March 16, 1942.

Dear Colonel Barden:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 14, 1942, considered with interest the plans you submitted with your letter of March 12th for proposed pontoon bridges to serve as emergency highway crossings of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. The Commission find no objection to the construction of these bridges to serve during the period of the war.

In view of traffic congestion on the existing bridges connecting the District of Columbia with Virginia and Maryland, the pontoon bridges at Virginia Avenue, Constitution Avenue, and Fourteenth Street in particular, might be desirable for the use of light vehicular traffic at all times during the emergency period.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman.

Colonel W. J. Barden,
District Engineer Officer,
United States Engineer Office,
First and Douglas Streets, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M

HOME OWNERS' LOAN CORPORATION
Washington

January 22, 1942

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer
Secretary to the Fine Arts Commission
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a memorandum, recently submitted to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, describing a plan which we believe has considerable possibilities in the field of war and post-war low cost housing. The proposed program provides for the use of existing community assets in the production of war and post-war housing. Under it, residential structures which are substandard but still basically sound, and pavements, utilities, and schools already in place, will be re-used instead of being abandoned in one locality and duplicated in another.

Dwellings suitable for the use of war workers (1) can thus be produced for little more than one-half the cost of equivalent new residential construction. (2) This low cost will be reflected in a sharply reduced economic rent. (3) War housing production will be expedited. (4) Considerable critical materials will be saved. (5) The quality of the housing thus produced will warrant 40 year cost amortization. (6) Concurrent new construction on adjacent vacant property will further increase the supply of war housing.

As by-products, the program will (a) dry up large blighted and slum area without direct cost; (b) avoid much new construction, the post-war value of which is doubtful; (c) eliminate much wasteful duplication of streets, schools and utilities; (d) help in the difficult transition from a war-time to a peace-time economy, by including a developed program for the re-use of existing community assets in the post-war employment reserve; and (e) produce a large pool of low cost standard housing, in which low income workers can be domiciled after the war, at rent levels that will reflect little or no subsidy, thus increasing the number of American families which are self-sustaining.

Those projects which are immediately contemplated will require governmental financing, redevelopment and management. The program points to a future, however, in which the Federal Government through the agency of a revolving fund, will assemble and rehabilitate groups of substandard urban residential properties, which private investors, home financing agencies and redevelopment corporations can subsequently acquire, manage and cost-amortize.

We will value your critical comments on the proposed program.

Exhibit N

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Arthur Goodwillie
Director - Neighborhood Conservation Service

March 18, 1942.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts have given consideration to the Memorandum which you submitted to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, a copy of which you sent to this Commission, setting forth a plan for "The Rehabilitation of Southwest Washington as a War Housing Measure."

In general the Commission of Fine Arts favor the rehabilitation of Southwest Washington as it affects the appearance of the city and aims to improve living conditions.

However, in view of the fact that the principal problems to be solved first have to do with economic and social factors with respect to housing, the Commission prefer to have them settled first before problems that affect questions of design, in which this Commission would be particularly concerned, are taken up.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Hon. Arthur Goodwillie, Director,
Neighborhood Conservation Service,
Home Owners' Loan Corporation,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT N-I

March 16, 1942.

Dear Mr. Lynn:

In accordance with your request, the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 14, 1942, inspected the bust of former Speaker Thomas B. Reed at your office.

The Commission report as follows:

We found the bust of Thomas B. Reed extremely amateurish and entirely lacking in sculptural expression, and therefore cannot recommend its acceptance by the Federal Government.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. David Lynn,
Architect of the Capitol,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT O

